INCLUDING OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Yes, you can have open-ended questions as part of your CARA Parish Life Survey!

It costs a little more, but open-ended questions provide your parishioners with a chance to communicate what they most want you to know. This is an effective way to see emerging trends within the parish.

CARA offers parishes three options when including open-ended questions:

- For $2 per comment, CARA can transcribe and analyze all comments. The analysis of the responses is presented in a special section of the report. Transcribed comments are presented in an appendix to the report. The parish is only charged when a responding parishioner writes in a comment.

- For $1 per comment, CARA can transcribe all comments and present the transcribed comments in an appendix to the report. The parish is only charged when a responding parishioner writes in a comment.

- For no charge, the parish can include an open-ended question on the CARA questionnaire and transcribe and/or analyze the comments itself.

CARA recommends that a parish use up to two open-ended questions. Some of the most popular open-ended questions are:

1) What do you feel is the parish’s greatest strength?

2) What is the greatest challenge facing the parish?

3) What one thing do you like best about the parish?

4) On what one need or program should the parish most focus?

5) What is the most important need for our parish to focus on in the next one to three years?

CARA will work closely with the parish to develop open-ended questions that best serve the needs of the parish.